



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Rep. Kind: Prescription for a Healthy Wisconsin

CHAMP Act: Makes Preventive Care a Priority

First in a Series on the Children's Health & Medicare Protection Act of 2007

Washington, DC – U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI), member of the House Committee on Ways and Means, today hailed the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007 (CHAMP Act) as an important step forward in encouraging and rewarding preventive care that improves health and saves money. The CHAMP Act was passed out of the Ways and Means Committee last week, and is expected to come to the House floor Wednesday.

"It makes no sense for Medicare to discourage preventive services with co-pays and deductibles, when it will save the program money in the long run," Rep. Kind said. "The CHAMP Act eliminates cost-sharing for preventive care under Medicare, a commonsense step that will increase the early detection of disease, improve seniors' health, and reduce long-term costs. This is a win-win for both Wisconsin seniors and taxpayers."

The CHAMP Act makes Medicare's preventive benefits more affordable by eliminating all co-payments and deductibles for these services. It also makes it easier for Medicare to add new preventive benefits by allowing the Department of Health and Human Services to add them without Congressional action.

Under the CHAMP Act, seniors will be able to participate, cost free, in preventive care services such as: initial physical exams; screenings for prostate, colorectal, breast, and cervical cancers; screenings for cardiovascular disease and diabetes as well as training in nutrition and management of these diseases; flu, hepatitis B, and pneumococcal immunizations; Glaucoma screenings, and bone mass measurement for osteoporosis. The bill also sets up a process by which Medicare can add new preventive services for seniors.

"Encouraging seniors to take advantage of these services could help avert further ailments down the road, and could even save lives," Rep. Kind said. "It is my hope that the CHAMP Act will allow every senior on Medicare to step up their preventive care and better their long-term health."